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STATION : Berlin
OFFICER : AB 36
SOURCE : ZIGZAG
EVALUATION: B
REFERENCE : MGB-2450 (BSC-684); MGH-005-312.
SUBJECT : The AUGUSTIN Affair.

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Field Comment: Paragraph 3 of MGH-005-312, states that according to the Werner MUELLER interrogation reports, AUGUSTINE was an American flight officer who parachuted into Germany and had the misfortune to land near HIMMLER's house. The reference letter further states MUELLER made no mention of HABECKER being concerned with the AUGUSTINE case. However, ZIGZAG reports (BSC-684) that the "AUGUSTIN" case was one of HABECKER's most outstanding achievements. Since it is possible the AUGUSTIN and the AUGUSTINE cases, in spite of the similarity of the names, may be separate incidents, we report the information supplied by ZIGZAG, for whatever bearing it may have on the HABECKER case. It will also be remembered that MGB-473 (BSC-610) states HABECKER was one of the Gestapo investigators on the SCHULZE-BOYSEN group. It is realized that this report is probably of historical interest only.

1. First Lieutenant AUGUSTIN was a young fighter-pilot of the German Luftwaffe. He had been in the Hitler Youth and after finishing school became a professional officer. Sometime in 1941 or 1942, on a mission behind the Russian lines during which his plane was shot down, AUGUSTIN landed by parachute and was taken prisoner by Soviet soldiers. He was taken to a PW camp where about fifty officers were being held.
2. The treatment in the PW camp was not bad. Almost daily the camp was visited by propagandists who lectured to the prisoners on the merits of the Soviet Union. In the beginning AUGUSTIN rejected these attempts to influence him, and in the discussion periods following the lectures he voiced his "idealistic" Nazi views. This expression of his political faith led to the Russian propagandists devoting extra time to him alone after the general discussion periods. One of the lecturers who paid special attention to him was a very clever and well-read woman, who after a time brought him to the point where he could not answer her Marxist dialectics. In time, the feeling that Marxism and National Socialism were not very diametric, and the news produced by the propagandists on the situation in Germany, brought AUGUSTIN to a public declaration before the other German officers that he was through with Hitler, and a statement to the Russians that he was willing to work actively against Hitler.
3. AUGUSTIN's first job for the Russians was as a propagandist on the loudspeaker system on the front lines, urging German troops to desert or lay down their arms. AUGUSTIN was used on different points along the front, as a test of his reliability, and was then asked if he were ready for a more dangerous assignment. AUGUSTIN accepted.
4. AUGUSTIN was carefully prepared for his new assignment in a suburb of Moscow. The assignment was to assassinate the commander of the White Russian forces in Germany, General VLASSOV. AUGUSTIN was to travel to Berlin on regular German leave orders, to request an interview with VLASSOV at his home in Dahlem, and to shoot him with a revolver during the interview. AUGUSTIN was equipped with falsified leave papers and a revolver with a specially explosive ammunition. He was flown to a Russian partisan camp behind the Russian front and slipped through the German lines. He arrived successfully in Berlin, but discovered that VLASSOV was away from Berlin for a longer period.
5. AUGUSTIN remained in Berlin for some days, stopping at a hotel on Schiffbauerdamm. After a time he realized that the claims of the Russian propagandists, that Germany was standing on the brink of revolution and had no more will to resist, were exaggerated. AUGUSTIN

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began to waver again. He wanted to give himself up to the German authorities, but was afraid. He decided to return to the Russians, to accept another mission, and then not to carry out that mission but to give himself up to the Germans. He returned to the Russian front, went through the German lines, was taken to the Russian partisan camp and then flown back to the vicinity of Moscow. To his surprise, the Russians were not angered over his failure but termed it a "professional annoyance" which had to be counted on.

6. After some time AUGUSTIN was given a new mission. This time he was to assassinate the SS-und Polizeifuehrer, General GOTTSCHIEDT, who was governing a Polish district. For this mission AUGUSTIN received a brand new uniform of a Captain of the Luftwaffe, a Ritterkreuz, and identity papers in the name of a Captain KALTENBRUNNER. He was also given a letter, with the printed letter-head of the personal office of the chief of the Reichssicherheitshauptamt, which read about as follows:

"My dear Gottschiedt:

My nephew, Ritterkreuz wearer Captain Kaltenbrunner, has a personal request to make of you. I would be pleased if you could fulfill it.

With SS greeting, your
Kaltenbrunner."

AUGUSTIN again received a revolver with specially explosive ammunition, and an explosive charge in the form of a small gasoline can, which he was to detonate to cover his retreat immediately after the assassination.

7. AUGUSTIN was again taken by airplane to the partisan camp. From there he was taken by truck, with several partisans, to a city in Poland (probably Cracow) where GOTTSCHIEDT was residing. The truck was to wait until after the assassination, but AUGUSTIN noticed that the truck hurried away as soon as it had dropped off AUGUSTIN.

8. AUGUSTIN went to GOTTSCHIEDT's headquarters, and on the basis of his Ritterkreuz and his letter was almost immediately admitted to the General's presence. AUGUSTIN placed his revolver on the table, stated that his real name was AUGUSTIN, and explained he had had the mission to shoot the General, which he refused to do. After some minutes, when GOTTSCHIEDT had recovered from his surprise, AUGUSTIN was arrested.

9. After his arrest AUGUSTIN was brought to the Reichssicherheitshauptamt in Berlin and was interrogated at length. The interrogations, whose reports run into several hundred pages, were carried out by the (then) Kriminalinspektor HABECKER. ZIGZAG, as an Abwehr officer, had occasion to discuss the case later with HABECKER, and the latter was convinced that AUGUSTIN had told the truth in all points. Checks carried out by the Reichssicherheitshauptamt also confirmed the truth of his statements. The revolver did contain an especially explosive ammunition. The explosive charge which AUGUSTIN carried with him contained explosive enough to have blown up the whole building. The story of AUGUSTIN's attempted assassination of VLASSOV was also proved, and in the hotel on Schiffbauerdamm, where AUGUSTIN had stayed, a suitcase was found which he had left behind him.

10. At the end of his interrogation, AUGUSTIN declared himself ready to work again on the German side against the Russians. Later, about half a year before the war's end, when ZIGZAG asked HABECKER about AUGUSTIN's fate, HABECKER stated that AUGUSTIN was no longer alive.

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